



Georgia Supplement

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Grand Commander

EDITOR'S NOTES

Recent data is indicative of a fact that we have known for some time. That is that the United States of America is becoming increasingly secularized and that the expression of religious faith and practice is in demise. The data show that nonbelievers are, if not already there, headed toward being the majority of people in this nation. This change appears to be the result of a methodical attack on faith by secular society with particular emphasis made upon the demonizing of the Christian faith and those who practice it. Hollywood and television have led the charge with the portrayal of Christians as phony, hypocritical, and foolish. The Apostle Paul said he did not mind being a "fool for Christ" and that feeling is at the heart of my being.

What does this trend say to us as Knights Templar? Could it be that the numbers reflect a reality of being or are they merely symptomatic of an illness that we must address? For years there has been hand-wringing over the decline in membership of the mainline denominations in the Christian faith. Most every time any Masonic body meets we discuss the decline in membership and what we can do to overcome it. If we look at the ages of our membership we will discover that most Masonic bodies have "older" members. This sense of "older" carries over into organized religion. Protestant seminaries are finding that their student bodies are composed of men and women who are entering ministry later in life. Several seminaries have an average student body age of mid forties.

We are thrilled when a young man receives the Orders of Templary. That thrill comes from an innate sense of rejoicing in "new life." What it also tells us is that young men are seeking some sense of connection with meaning in life. Churches are still struggling to find ways to fulfill that sense of meaning, but we as Knights Templar have it! Our meaning is derived from the reality of our being in renewed relationship with our Creator through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will celebrate Easter this month. Easter is a day of glorious celebration and joy for we are reminded anew that we BELONG to Christ and he has prepared the way for our entry into eternal life. Easter is Hope. Easter is new life. Easter is the core of our being as Christian Masons and Sir Knights. We are an Easter people and "Hallelujah" is our song.

We have a wonderful mission field in our own nation. The secularization of America has robbed it of its roots and young people are seeking a way to connect to the roots that have

made our Nation the lighthouse of freedom. Thus the Masonic bodies of this country have a marvelous opportunity to afford “roots” to young men and we as Knights Templar have the wonderful opportunity of bridging gaps in the search for meaning in life. Companion Sir Knights, share the Good News. He is RISEN! That one statement alone gives meaning to life. He IS RISEN. He IS RISEN INDEED!

Live your lives as examples of that Truth. Live as examples of the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Happy Easter!

FESTIVALS

Several Festivals are in the offing. Please attend to lend your support to newly knighted Sir Knights.

SIXTH DISTRICT YORK RITE FESTIVAL honoring the Presiding Officers of the Grand York Rite Bodies of Georgia will be held on Saturday, 4 April at Meridian Sun Lodge in Griffin, Georgia beginning with registration at 7:30 AM with the work beginning at 8:30 AM. Contact Terry Farmer at 770-914-0349 so that there will be enough meals provided. Registration fee is \$7.00 for everyone including candidates.

WAYCROSS YORK RITE BODIES will sponsor a Festival on Saturday, 25 April dedicated to Carlton Holland KYCH at Waycross Lodge #305. Registration begins at 7:00 AM with work beginning at 8:00 AM

GRAND YORK RITE BODIES ANNUAL MEETING

Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery will hold their Annual Meeting beginning on Sunday, 3 May and concluding on Wednesday, 6 May. Registration will begin Sunday afternoon at 2:00 with the Joint Memorial Service at 5:00. The Banquet will be at 7:00.

Grand Chapter will convene Monday morning and Grand Council on Monday afternoon. The Order of the High Priesthood and Order of the Silver Trowel will be conferred. Open installation of the Grand Chapter officers will be held on Tuesday morning. Grand Commandery opens on Tuesday morning with the Service of Divine Worship at First Presbyterian Church. The business session will begin Tuesday afternoon. The Order of Knight Crusader of the Cross will be conferred Tuesday evening. Wednesday will see the conclusion of the business of Grand Commandery and the Open Installation of the new Grand Commandery officers. See the Grand York Rite Bodies website for all the detailed information. Companions and Sir Knights, your Grand York Rite needs your attendance and your input. Even if you are not a voting delegate, the Annual Meeting is a wonderful time to learn more about what we are doing and to share incredible fellowship and brotherhood with some of the finest Masons in the world. It is worth the trip.

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